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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC military information from Frankfurt/oder

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 23 February to 6 March 1950

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 24 April 1950

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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The following observations were made in Frankfurt/Oder (O 53/v 63) between 23 February and 6 March 1950:

1. Artillerie Kaserne:

a. still occupied by an AAA unit with red-bordered black epaulets, with and without artillery insignia. The unit numbered about 1,500 troops, about 50 percent being recruits.

b. For an inspection on Red Army Day (23 February 1950) 1,300 to 1,500 troops had fallen in.

c. Three platoons of about 40 troops each underwent basic infantry drill without rifles in the barracks yard on 2 March 1950.

d. Four platoons of the same strength were engaged in the same exercises in the morning of 6 March 1950. Three platoons of the same strength held basic infantry drill and march exercises in the afternoon. Two squads of 12 and 15 men respectively exercised in line of skirmishers and squad column without arms.

e. Although, no heavy weapons were seen there were no indications that the weapons previously seen in the barracks were not there.

f. Passenger car and trucks

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2. Puelow Kaserne:

a.

Occupied by about 600 troops of a unit with tank insignia and a unit with artillery insignia.

b. About 600 troops had fallen ⁱⁿ the barracks yard for an inspection on Red Army Day (23 February 1950). A red flag and a military band were observed with the troops.

c. Service of the piece drill by 12 men with a 57-mm AT gun was observed on 2 March 1950. Twenty men held rifle practices. Four platoons of 40 to 50 men each, with and without rifles, were drilling in the barracks yard on 6 March 1950.

d.

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3. Eichhorn Kaserne:

a. Northern section:

(1) Still housing transient soldiers of all branches of service. Much activity was seen there during recent months. After observations over a prolonged period of time it was established that the number of incoming transient troops approximately equalled the number of outgoing troops (going on furlough). The troops traveled individually rather than in shipments. The reason why transient EM are processed through the barracks is unknown. Soldiers awaiting train connection in Frankfurt/Oder generally stay in the two requisitioned waiting rooms of the railroad station. Officers who have to stay in Frankfurt/Oder for some time are given a truck ride to the Hofbauer Kaserne. Troops arrive in Frankfurt/Oder aboard regular trains. Two pairs of express trains of nine or ten coaches which are usually occupied to capacity operate daily between Frankfurt/Oder and the Soviet Union.

(2) Gate guards at the Eichhorn Kaserne change frequently. They wear different service colors and are armed with rifles or submachine guns and, sometimes, are unarmed.

(3) The Frankfurt Tech office still stores furniture in some stables and garages of the barracks.

b. Southern section:

(1) Still occupied by about 600 troops, including about 450 recruits, wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. The unit is allegedly commanded by Lt Col Rudich.

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(2) About 600 troops had fallen in for an inspection on Red Army Day (23 February 1950).

(3) Twenty-five men wearing black-bordered crimson epauletts marched from the kaserne toward Kiesgrube (gravel pit) on 2 March 1950.

(4) Forty unarmed men held basic infantry drill in the barracks yard on 6 March 1950. About 15 soldiers with shaved heads fell in in front of one quarters building.

(5)

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4. Former Hindenburg Kaserne:

a. Occupied to capacity by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epauletts, mostly with tank insignia. The troops were off duty on Red Army Day and therefore did not fall in in the barracks yard.

b. Four tanks of the previously described type moved from the barracks toward Rosengarten on 2 March 1950.

c. Truck [] occupied by 12 men, left the barracks toward Westkreuz/Rosengarten in the afternoon of 6 March 1950.

d. Trucks [] were also identified.

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5. Hofbauer Kaserne:

a. Still housing about 100 troops wearing red-bordered black epauletts, allegedly belonging to a tank unit.

b. One kaserne building was used as transient billets for officers going on leave. Three buildings were only lightly occupied.

c. No military activity was observed in the barracks []

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6. Horn Kaserne:

a. Occupied by about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epauletts with tank and motor transport insignia. About 600 troops were also observed to fall in on Red Army Day. On this occasion a military band in platoon strength came to the barracks.

b. Sixty troops at drill with three 37-mm AT guns, one 57-mm AT gun and two 76.2-mm guns (without muzzle brake) and forty troops at rifle drill were observed on 2 March 1950.

c. Fifty troops held rifle drill in the barracks yard and 70 to 80 men fell in in front of a building in the morning of 6 March 1950. Two crews of 10 and 11 men respectively were engaged in service of the piece drill with two 76.2-mm guns in the afternoon.

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d.

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7. Ziethen Kaserne:

a. Occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. Eight companies of 100 to 120 men each were seen at roll call on 23 February 1950. Each company had a red flag.

b. Two platoons of about 40 men each were seen at rifle drill on the athletic field adjoining the kaserne on 2 March 1950.

c. Three platoons of 40 to 45 men were seen drilling on the same field in the afternoon. Six gun crews of 10 to 15 men each were observed at service of the piece drill with two types of guns, presumably of 57 and 76.2 mm caliber (observed from a distance).

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8. Kommandatura in the gelbe Kasse building:

a. Occupied by a kommandatura unit of about 100 men wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. Twelve soldiers were seen at firing practices on 2 March 1950. Two groups of 12 and 14 men respectively were observed drilling without arms on 4 March 1950.

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comment:

a. continual information from Frankfurt/Oder confirms component units of the 7th Gds Necz Div as being stationed in most of the barracks.

component units of the ? No AAA Div/10th Gds Necz Army are still stationed in the artillery kaserne.

transient soviet soldiers and officers are billeted in sections of the Riechhorn Kaserne and the Wolfbauer Kaserne (presumably a transportation control office for personnel going on, or returning from, furlough).

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b. [redacted] a component unit of the ? No AAA Div in the artillery kaserne.

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c. It is known from a schedule published in Sovetskaya
Pravda of 14 October 1949 that, effective 15 October 1949,
two trains are daily communicating in both directions on
the Frankfurt/oder-Brest railroad line, i.e. one express
train leaving Potsdam-Wildpark and one passenger train
leaving Frankfurt/oder.

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